

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041057  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

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-----045277 161613Z /42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041057

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR PELLETREAU FROM NEA/ARN - HOWELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: SHALOM VISIT TO DAMASCUS

REF: STATE 28607

1. SHALOM PLANS DEPART U.S. FEB 17 FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS IN ISRAEL BEFORE PROCEEDING TO SYRIA. SYRIAN EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED PASSPORTS FOR SHALOM, HIS WIFE AND HIS MOTHER ON FEB 13 AND WE SPOKE TO AMB. KABBANI, WHO HAD ALREADY SENT CABLE REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ISSUE VISAS, EXPLAINING TO HIM THAT WE UNDERSTOOD APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES HAD TAKEN POSITION FAVORABLE TO HIS VISIT. WE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT SHORT LEAD TIME WAS DUE TO COMBINATION OF FACTORS, INCLUDING DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF MOTHERS PASSPORT, SNOW IN NYC, ETC. KABBANI WAS TOLD SHALOM PLANNED DEPART U.S. ON FEB 17 BUT NOT, OF COURSE, THAT HE WOULD BE STOPPING IN ISRAEL.

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2. HOWELL CHECKED WITH KABBANI FEB 16 BUT EMBASSY HAD NOT RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE VISAS. KABBANI SAID HE HAD SENT A SECOND CABLE TO DAMASCUS ON MATTER AND WOULD KEEP US INFORMED. WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO INVOLVE EMBASSY DAMASCUS IN MATTER BECAUSE WE QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE NEED OR UTILITY TO DO SO. WE LEAVE IT UP TO YOU WHETHER THERE

ANY STEPS YOU MIGHT TAKE NOW TO EXPEDITE AUTHORIZATION.  
CHANCES INCREASING, HOWEVER, THAT VISAS WILL NOT BE  
ISSUED PRIOR TO SHALOM'S DEPARTURE AND WE MAY HAVE TO  
CONSIDER MEANS OF GETTING PASSPORTS WITH SYRIAN VISAS  
TO SHALOM IN ISRAEL.

3. IN TELECON FEB 15, SHALOM TOLD HOWELL HE HAD 34  
PETITIONS IN HAND AND WAS SEEKING TO OBTAIN SIX MORE AND  
PROCESS THEM THROUGH NEW YORK STATE BEFORE SENDING THEM  
TO US, HOPEFULLY BY NEXT WEEK. SHALOM APOLOGIZED FOR  
DELAYS BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT  
PROCESSING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN TIME TO POUCH  
PETITIONS TO YOU ABOUT THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL IN  
DAMASCUS BETWEEN MARCH 7 AND 10. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, ITINERARY, VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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